

Brachyglottis laxifolia

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, RR, St

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small bushy grey-green shrub bearing yellow daisy-like flowers inhabiting the northern South Island. Leaves 2–6 cm long, tapering to a narrow tip and to a long grooved stalk, white underneath. Flowers 2 cm wide with yellow radiating petals in loose clusters.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Laxly branched shrub up to 1 m tall. **Branchlets** tomentose when young. **Leaves** rather close-set; lamina more or less 20–60 × 10–20 mm, subcoriaceous, elliptic to lanceolate-oblong, acute, narrowed to petiole up to 40 mm long, becoming nearly glabrous above, clad in dense white tomentum below, distantly and obscurely crenate-sinuate to entire, midrib evident. **Capitula** loosely paniculately arranged on slender bracted branchlets; ultimate branchlets 30–50 mm long. Capitula up to 20 mm diameter; phyllaries linear-oblong, obtuse to subacute, tomentose on back, inner with scarious margins. **Ray-florets** 10–15, up to approximately 8 mm long, spreading, yellow. **Achenes** linear-oblong, grooved, sparsely pubescent, approximately 2 mm long; pappus-hairs up to 5 mm long, slender, barbellate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very close to *Brachyglottis greyi* (Hook.f.) B.Nord. and best distinguished from that species by the small “tails” at the end of sagitate anthers. Ecologically it is a montane to subalpine species and is never found in coastal situations. Plants also, as a rule, have longer broadly lanceolate leaves.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (North-west Nelson—Mount Arthur, Mount Owen, Motueka Hills, Spenser Range, Discovery Peaks, Fowler’s Pass; Marlborough—Mount Rintoul, St. Arnaud Range, Wairau Gorge).

HABITAT

Montane to low alpine, 1100–1600 m. Locally common in tussock-scrubland on limestone and marble.

GENUS

Brachyglottis

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyglottis laxifolia (Buchanan) B.Nord.

SYNONYMS

Senecio laxifolius Buchanan



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TAXONOMIC NOTES

Some botanists consider *B. laxifolia* is better treated as a subspecies or variety of *B. greyi*, partly because they are allopatric taxa. However, *B. greyi* does not have “tails” at the ends of the anthers, and so, until a thorough revision of the genus is completed it seems wise to retain *B. laxifolia* at the rank of species.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December–February

FRUITING

January–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed or semi hardwood cuttings. Does best in full sun and benefits from a heavy pruning after flowering. Will hybridise readily with most other *Brachyglottis* so if pure seed is wanted keep plants well apart.

ETYMOLOGY

brachyglottis: Name comes from the Greek words brachus meaning “short” and glottis meaning “the vocal apparatus of the larynx”

laxifolia: Soft-leaved

NVS CODE

BRALAX

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, St

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

Mark A F. 2012. Above the Treeline: A Nature Guide to Alpine New Zealand. Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson, NZ. 42 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Mark (2012).

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-laxifolia/>

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